

Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Original) A method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array comprising the steps of:

 providing a microprojection array comprised of one or more microprojections;
 treating the surface of one or more of said microprojections of said microprojection array with a method selected from group consisting of chemical pre-etching, plasma treatment, heat treating, rinsing with an alkaline detergent and rinsing with a wetting agent;

 providing a coating formulation comprising an active agent;
 applying said coating formulation to said treated surfaces of said one or more microprojections; and

 drying said coating formulation onto said surfaces to form a coating.

2. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said coating formulation contains a pharmacologically effective dose of said agent.

3. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said step of treating comprises chemical pre-etching.

4. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said step of treating comprises plasma treatment.

5. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said step of treating comprises heat treating.

6. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said step of treating comprises rinsing at least one surface of one or more microprojections with an alkaline detergent.

7. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said step of treating comprises rinsing at least one surface of one or more microprojections with a wetting agent.

8. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 7 wherein said wetting agent comprises a surfactant.

9. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 8 wherein said surfactant comprises a surfactant selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate, cetyl pyridinium chloride, a trimethylammonium chloride (TMAC) surfactant TMAC, benzalkonium chloride, a polysorbitan surfactant~~tw eens~~, sorbitans, and a laureth surfactant laureths.

10. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said wetting agent is present in a concentration at or above the critical micelle concentration.

11. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said wetting agent comprises a wetting agent selected from the group consisting of HEC, HPC, HPMC, MC, HEMC, EHEC and a block copolymer ethylene oxide and propylene oxide surfactant pluronics.

12. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said wetting agent comprises a wetting agent selected from the group consisting of proteins and peptides.

13. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 9 wherein said polysorbitan surfactant is tweens comprise a tween selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate tween-20 and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate tween-80.

14. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein ~~said coating formulation has a viscosity from about 3 centipoise to about 200 centipoise and said coating formulation has a contact angle of less than about 100 degrees.~~

15. (Original) A method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array comprising the steps of:

providing a microprojection array comprised of one or more microprojections;
providing a coating formulation comprising an active agent and a wetting agent;
applying said coating formulation to said surfaces of said one or more microprojections; and
drying said coating formulation onto said surfaces to form a coating.

16. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said coating formulation contains a pharmacologically effective dose of said agent.

17. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 7 wherein said wetting agent comprises a surfactant.

18. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 17 wherein said surfactant comprises a surfactant selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate, cetyl pyridinium chloride, a trimethylammonium chloride (TMAC) surfactant

TMAC, benzalkonium chloride, a polysorbitan surfactant~~tw eens~~, sorbitans, and a laureth surfactant~~laureths~~..

19. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said wetting agent is present in a concentration at or above ~~the~~ its critical micelle concentration.

20. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said wetting agent comprises a wetting agent selected from the group consisting of HEC, HPC, HPMC, MC, HEMC, EHEC and a block copolymer ethylene oxide and propylene oxide surfactant pluronics.

21. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said wetting agent comprises a wetting agent selected from the group consisting of proteins and peptides.

22. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 18 wherein said polysorbitan surfactant ~~is tweens comprise a tween~~ selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate ~~tween-20~~ and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate ~~tween-80~~.

23. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein ~~said coating formulation has a viscosity from about 3 centipoise to about 200 centipoise and said coating formulation has a contact angle of less than about 100 degrees.~~